

# San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Case Study for A Call to Action #4  
In My Backyard



## B-Cycle Bike Share Expansion

A group of B-cycle users  
touring the National Park by  
bicycle at Mission Concepción

### Project Profile

**Urban Community**  
San Antonio, Texas

### Partners

City of San Antonio; San Antonio B-Cycle; San Antonio River Authority; National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

### Successes

Due to the simultaneous efforts of the San Antonio River Improvements Project and various community partnerships, the partners have been able to leverage funding to provide far more stations than originally funded. Preliminary data analysis suggests that the new B-Cycle stations connecting to the Missions are becoming the most used stations in the entire municipal bike share system. Between November 2012 and May 2013, the current 6 stations that reach to the Missions had over 30% of all bike check-outs system-wide.

### Challenges

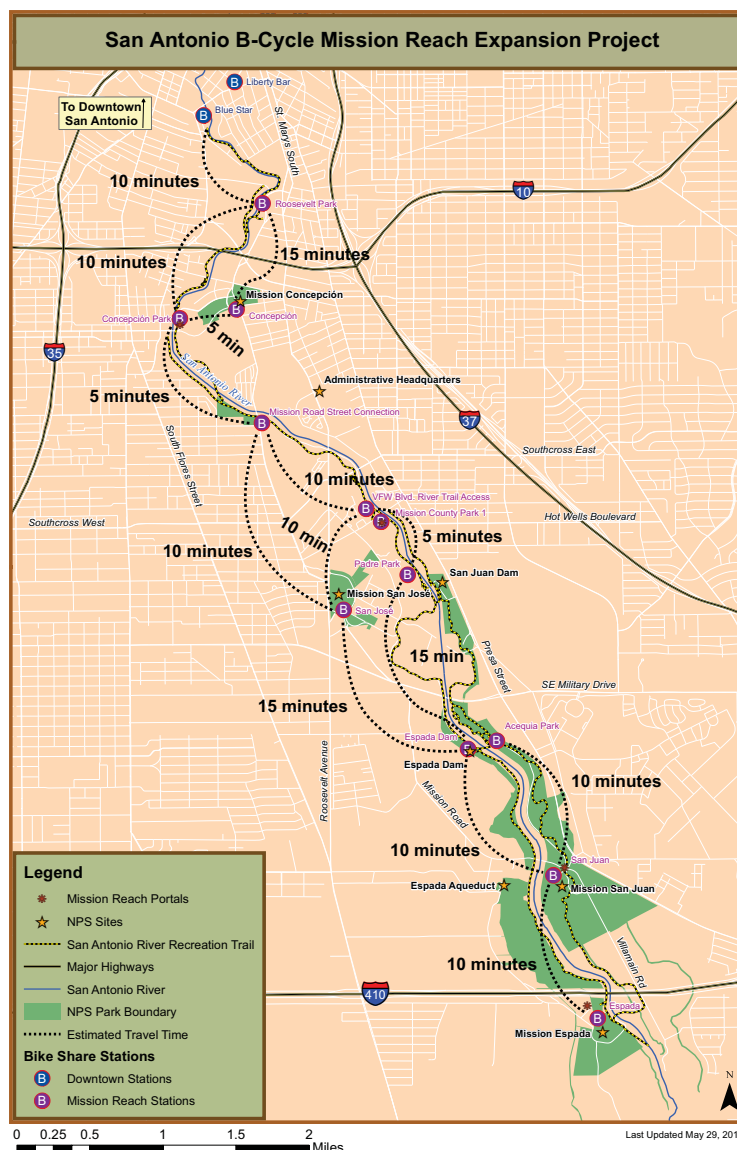
Less funding was received than originally requested. Separating a segment of a larger system to interpret usage data (i.e., National Park visitor usage versus citywide usage, etc.).

### Project Summary and Need

The [San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#) (SAAN) B-Cycle Bike Share Expansion Project enhances alternative transportation options for park visitors at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and provides connections to the surrounding community by providing bike share stations along the San Antonio River and at each of the four NPS missions.

### Measurable Results

- Population Served: 2.23 million residents; over 1.7 million annual park visitors
- B-Cycle System Users: Approximately 23,000 day pass users and 1,700 annual memberships (since system implementation in 2011)
- B-Cycle Stations Installed: 15 stations total will be installed for this project (35 stations exist systemwide)
- Vehicle Trips Averted: Approximately 10,000 vehicle trips to the National Park per year
- Resulting Emissions averted: 222,870 lbs annually for the 15 stations connecting to the National Park



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## Case Study Purpose

The Director's [Call to Action](#) #4 (C2A4) Team has prepared this case study to provide a concrete example of a C2A4 project, which work to better connect national parks in urban areas with their gateway communities.

## Need Assistance?

The C2A4 Team has reviewed funding applications, created Federal Lands Access Program [guidance](#), and has documented C2A4 projects. This Case Study also serves as a type of assistance for C2A4 projects. Please contact the C2A4 team if you have any further questions.

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## Acknowledgements

The C2A4 Team would like to thank Krista Sherwood from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program and San Antonio Missions National Historical Park for providing us with information on this project.

## Principles

This project addresses both President Obama's America's Great Outdoors and the National Park Service's Call to Action initiatives by protecting cultural and historic resources through enhancing access to bike trails in underserved communities and by connecting people and neighborhoods with their urban park.

## Timeline

**September 1978** - San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (SAAN) was congressionally designated in 1978. The Park was opened to the public in 1983 and preserves four of the five Spanish colonial missions in San Antonio, Texas, in addition to related historical sites along the San Antonio River. The four SAAN missions, listed from north-upstream to south-downstream of the San Antonio River, are Missions Concepción, San José, San Juan, and Espada. The fifth and most well-known San Antonio Mission, the Alamo, is located upstream from Mission Concepción, in downtown San Antonio; it is owned by the State of Texas.

**October 2012** - Funded by the FY 2011 Paul S. Sarbanes Transit in the Parks (TRIP) grant, the first phase of the project is completed, resulting in a linear expansion of the municipal bike share system by six B-Cycle stations installed along the San Antonio River trail and at two of the four SAAN missions, Missions Concepción and San José.

**June 2013** - Phase two, also funded through the FY 2011 TRIP grant, is installed resulting in four additional B-Cycle stations to connect to Mission San Juan.

**August 2013** - Through the remaining FY 2011 grant and through an additional FY 2012 TRIP grant, the third phase of the project will result in at least one additional station (with approximately four additional stations - locations to be determined), to complete the connection to the fourth NPS mission along the river, Mission Espada.

## Under Development/Related Efforts

- **Improved Wayfinding and Public Information**
  - SAAN also received FY 2012 TRIP funding to improve wayfinding, mapping and public information for traveling between the historic sites and between the various multi-modal transportation options.
- **San Antonio River Improvements Project**
  - A large-scale community supported effort led by the San Antonio River

Authority for the ecosystem restoration of the San Antonio River with recreation improvements including paddling and hike/bike trails. NPS is one of the many partners in this effort.

- **NPS Spanish Colonial Farm**
  - NPS, through County support and community partnerships, is restoring the historic agricultural landscape surrounding Mission San Juan and creating a Spanish colonial farm along the historic section of the San Antonio River, which will be used for interpretation as part of SAAN.

**August 2013** - Anticipated date for all the above efforts to be completed.

## Ballpark Costs

- Cost per station (including bikes, site preparation, labor, shipping, etc.) = approximately \$55,000.
- Total TRIP grant funding awarded = approximately \$620,000
- Total funding leveraged through partnerships = over \$200,000



The B-cycle station at Mission San José